

# LAW

**TO LANCH.** *v. a.*  
1. To p. sh. to sea.  
All art is used to sink episcopacy, and launch presbytery, in England.  
With stays and cordage last he rigg'd the ship.  
And roll'd on leavers, *launch'd* her in the deep. *Pope.*  
2. To dart from the hand. This perhaps, for distinction sake, might better be written *launch*.  
The King of Heav'n, obscure on high,  
Ear'd his red arm, and *launching* from the sky  
His written bolt, not shaking empty smoke,  
Down to the deep abyss the flaming fellow strook. *Dryd.*  
**LAUND.** *n. f.* [*lande*, French; *laun*, Welsh.] Lawn a plain extended between woods. *Hammer.*  
Under this thick-grown brake we'll shroud ourselves,  
For through this *laund* anon the deer will come;  
And in this covert will we make our stand,  
Culling the principal of all the deer. *Shakesp. Henry VI.*  
**LAUNDRESS.** *n. f.* [*lavandiere*, French.] *Skinner* imagines that *lavandresse* may have been the old word.] A woman whose employment is to wash cloaths.  
The countess of Richmond would often say, On condition the princes of Christendom would march against the Turks, she would willingly attend them, and be their *laundress*. *Camden.*  
Take up these cloaths here quickly; carry them to the *laundress* in Datchet mead. *Shakesp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*  
The *laundress* must be sure to tear her smocks in the washing, and yet wash them but half. *Swift.*  
**LAUNDRY.** *n. f.* [as if *lavandrie*.]  
1. The room in which clothes are washed.  
The affairs of the family ought to be consulted, whether they concern the stable, dairy, the pantry, or *laundry*. *Swift.*  
2. The act or state of washing.  
Chalky water is too fretting, as appeareth in *laundry* of cloaths, which wear out apace. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
**LAUOLTA.** *n. f.* [*la volte*, French.] An old dance, in which was much turning and much capering. *Hammer.*  
I cannot sing,  
Nor heel the high *lavolt*; nor sweeten talk;  
Nor play at subtle games. *Shakesp. Troilus and Cressida.*  
**LAUREATE.** *adj.* [*laureatus*, Lat.] Decked or invested with a laurel.  
Bid Amaranthus all his beauty shed,  
And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,  
To strew the *laureate* hearle where Lycid lies, *Milton.*  
Soft on her lap her *laureate* son reclines. *Dunciad.*  
**LAUREATION.** *n. f.* [*from laureate*.] It denotes, in the Scottish universities, the act or state of having degrees conferred, as they have in some of them a flowery crown, in imitation of laurel among the antients.  
**LAUREL.** *n. f.* [*laurus*, Lat. *laurier*, French.] A tree, called also the cherry bay.  
It hath broad thick shining ever-green leaves, somewhat like those of the bay tree; the cup of the flower is hollow, and funnel-shaped, spreading open at the top, and is divided into five parts: the flower consists of five leaves, which expand in form of a rose, having many stamina in the centre; the fruit, which is like that of the cherry tree, is produced in bunches, and the stone is longer and narrower than that of the cherry. *Miller.*  
The *laurus* or *laurel* of the antients is affirmed by naturalists to be what we call the bay tree. *Ainsworth.*  
The *laurel*, meed of mighty conquerors,  
And poets sage. *Sponser's Fairy Queen.*  
The *laurel* or cherry-bay, by cutting away the side branches, will rise to a large tree. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
**LAURELED.** *adj.* [*from laurel*.] Crowned or decorated with laurel.  
Hear'st thou the news? my friend I th' express is come  
With *laurel'd* letters from the camp to Rome. *Dryden.*  
Then future ages with delight shall see  
How Plato's, Bacon's, Newton's, looks agree;  
Or in fair series *laurel'd* bards be shown  
A Virgil there, and here an Addison. *Pope.*  
**LAW.** *n. f.* [*laga*, Saxon; *loi*, French; *lawgh*, Erse.]  
1. A rule of action.  
Unhappy man! to break the pious *laws*  
Of nature, pleading in his children's cause. *Dryden.*  
2. A decree, edict, statute, or custom, publicly established as a rule of justice.  
He hath resisted *law*,  
And therefore *law* shall scorn him further trial  
Than the severity of publick power. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*  
Thou art a robber,  
A *law-breaker*, a villain; yield thee, thief. *Shakesp. Othello.*  
Our nation would not give *law* to the Irish, therefore  
now the Irish gave *law* to them. *Davies on Ireland.*  
One *law* is split into two. *Baker Reflect. on Learning.*  
3. Judicial process.  
When every case in *law* is right. *Shakesp. King Lear.*  
Who has a breast so pure,  
But some uncleanly apprehensions  
Keep leets and *law* days, and in sessions sit,  
With meditations *lawful*. *Shakesp. Othello.*

# LAW

Tom Touchy is a fellow famous for taking the *law* of every body: there is not one in the town where he lives that he has not sued at a quarter-sessions. *Addison's Spectator.*  
4. Conformity to law; any thing *lawful*.  
In a rebellion,  
When what's not meet, but what must be, was *law*,  
Then were they chosen. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*  
5. An established and constant mode or process; a fixed correspondence of cause and effect.  
I dy'd, whilst in the womb he stay'd,  
Attending Nature's *law*. *Shakesp. Cymbeline.*  
**LAWFUL.** *adj.* [*law* and *full*.] Agreeable, to law; conformable to law; allowed legal by law; legitimate.  
It is not *lawful* for thee to have her. *Mat. xiv. 4.*  
Gloster's bastard son was kinder to his father, than my daughters, got 'tween the *lawful* sheets. *Shakesp. King Lear.*  
**LAWFULLY.** *adv.* [*from lawful*.] Legally; agreeably to law.  
This bond is forfeit;  
And *lawfully* by this the Jew may claim  
A pound of flesh. *Shakesp. Merchant of Venice.*  
Though it be not against strict justice for a man to do those things which he might otherwise *lawfully* do, albeit his neighbour doth take occasion from thence to conceive in his mind a false belief, yet Christian charity will, in many cases, refrain a man. *South's Sermons.*  
I may be allowed to tell your lordship, the king of poets, what an extent of power you have, and how *lawfully* you may exercise it. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*  
**LAWFULNESS.** *n. f.* [*from lawful*.] Legality; allowance of law.  
I think it were an error to speak further, till I may see some sound foundation laid of the *lawfulness* of the action. *Bacon's Holy War.*  
**LAWGIVER.** *n. f.* [*law* and *giver*.] Legislator; one that makes laws.  
Solomon we esteem as the *lawgiver* of our nation. *Bacon.*  
A law may be very reasonable in itself, although one does not know the reason of the *lawgiver*. *Swift.*  
**LAWGIVING.** *adj.* [*law* and *giving*.] Legislative.  
*Lawgiving* heroes, fam'd for taming brutes,  
And raising cities with their charming lutes. *Waller.*  
**LAWLESS.** *adj.* [*from law*.]  
1. Unrestrained by any law; not subject to law.  
The necessity of war, which among human actions is the most *lawless*, hath some kind of affinity with the necessity of law. *Raleigh's Essay.*  
The *lawless* tyrant, who denies  
To know their God, or message to regard,  
Must be compell'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii.*  
Orpheus did not, as poets feign, tame savage beasts,  
But men as *lawless*, and as wild as they. *Rowe's Commem.*  
Not the gods, nor angry Jove will bear  
Thy *lawless* wand'ring walks in open air. *Dryd. Eu.*  
Blind as the Cyclops, and as blind as he,  
They own'd a *lawless* savage liberty,  
Like that our painted ancestors for priz'd,  
Ere empire's arts their breasts had civiliz'd. *Dryden.*  
He Meteor-like, flames *lawless* through the void,  
Destroying others, by himself destroy'd. *Pope.*  
2. Contrary to law; illegal.  
Take not the quarrel from his powerful arms,  
He needs no indirect nor *lawless* course  
To cut off those that have offended him. *Shakesp. R. III.*  
We cite our faults,  
That they may hold excus'd our *lawless* lives. *Shakesp.*  
Thou the first, lay down thy *lawless* claim;  
Thou of my blood who bear'st the Julian name. *Dryden.*  
**LAWLESSLY.** *adv.* [*from lawless*.] In a manner contrary to law.  
Fear not, he bears an honourable mind,  
And will not use a woman *lawlessly*. *Shakesp. Othello.*  
**LAWMAKER.** *n. f.* [*law* and *maker*.] Legislator; one who makes laws; a lawgiver.  
Their judgment is, that the church of Christ should admit no *lawmakers* but the evangelists. *Hooker, b. iii.*  
**LAWN.** *n. f.* [*land*, Danish; *lawn*, Welsh; *lande*, French.]  
1. An open space between woods,  
Betwixt them *lawns*, or level downs, and flocks,  
Grazing the tender herb, were interpos'd. *Milt. Pa. Lost.*  
His mountains were in a few years shaded with young trees, that gradually shot up into groves, woods, and forests, intermixed with walks, and *lawns*, and gardens. *Addison's Spectator, N. 58.*  
Stern beasts in trains that by his truncheon fell,  
Now grilly forms shoot o'er the *lawns* of hell. *Pope.*  
Interpers'd in *lawns* and opening glades,  
Thin trees arise that shun each other's shades. *Pope.*  
2. [*Linon*, French.] Fine linen, remarkable for being used in the sleeves of bishops.  
Should'st thou bleed,  
To stop the wounds my finest *lawn* I'd tear,  
Wash them with tears, and wipe them with my hair. *Prior.*

# LAY

From high life high characters are drawn,  
A faint in crape is twice a faint in *lawn*. *Pope.*  
What awe did the slow solemn knell inspire:  
The duties by the *lawn* rob'd prelate pay'd. *Tickell.*  
And the last words, that duff to duff convey'd!  
**LAWSUIT.** *n. f.* [*law* and *suit*.] A process in law; a litigation.  
The giving the priest a right to the tithe would produce *lawsuits* and wrangles; his necessary attendance on the courts of justice would leave his people without a spiritual guide. *Swift's Proposal.*  
**LAWYER.** *n. f.* [*from law*.] Professor of law; advocate; pleader.  
It is like the breath of an unfeeling lawyer, you gave me nothing for it. *Shakesp. King Lear.*  
Is the law evil, because some lawyers in their office swerve from it? *Whitgift.*  
I have entered into a work touching laws, in a middle term, between the speculative and reverend discourses of philosophers, and the writings of lawyers. *Bacon's Holy War.*  
The nymphs with scorn beheld their foes,  
When the defendant's council rose;  
And, what no lawyer ever lack'd,  
With impudence own'd all the fact. *Swift.*  
**LAX.** *adj.* [*laxus*, Latin.]  
1. Loose; not confined; not closely joined.  
Inhabit *lax*, ye pow'rs of heav'n! *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
In mines, those parts of the earth which abound with strata of stone, suffer much more than those which consist of gravel, and the like *laxer* matter, which more easily give way. *Woodward.*  
2. Vague; not rigidly exact.  
Dialogues were only *lax* and moral discourses. *Baker.*  
3. Loose in body, so as to go frequently to stool; *laxative* medicines are such as promote that disposition. *Quincy.*  
4. Slack; not tense.  
By a branch of the auditory nerve that goes between the ear and the palate, they can hear themselves, though their outward ear be stop'd by the *lax* membrane to all sounds that come that way. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*  
**LAX.** *n. f.* A looseness; a diarrhoea.  
**LAXATION.** *n. f.* [*laxatio*, Latin.]  
1. The act of loosening or slackening.  
2. The state of being loosened or slackened.  
**LAXATIVE.** *adj.* [*laxativus*, French; *laxe*, Latin.] Having the power to ease costiveness.  
Omitting honey, which is of a *laxative* power itself; the powder of some loadstones in this doth rather constipate and bind, than purge and loosen the belly. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*  
The oil in wax is emollient, *laxative*, and anodyne. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*  
**LAXATIVE.** *n. f.* A medicine slightly purgative; a medicine that relaxes the bowels without stimulation.  
Nought profits him to save abandon'd life,  
Nor vomits upward aid, nor downward *laxative*. *Dryd.*  
**LAXATIVENESS.** *n. f.* [*laxative*.] Power of easing costiveness.  
**LAXITY.** *n. f.* [*laxitas*, Latin.]  
1. Not compression; not close cohesion.  
The former causes could never beget whirlpools in a chaos of so great a *laxity* and thinness. *Bentley's Sermons.*  
2. Contrariety to rigorous precision.  
3. Looseness; not costiveness.  
If sometimes it cause any *laxity*, it is in the same way with iron unprepared, which will disturb some bodies, and work by purge and vomit. *Brown's Vulg. Errours.*  
4. Slackness; contrariety to tension.  
*Laxity* of a fibre, is that degree of cohesion in its parts which a small force can alter, so as to increase its length beyond what is natural. *Quincy.*  
In consideration of the *laxity* of their eyes, they are subject to relapse. *Wijeman's Surgery.*  
5. Openness; not closeness.  
Hold a piece of paper close by the flame of a candle, and by little and little remove it further off, and there is upon the paper some part of that which I see in the candle, and it grows still less and less as I remove; so that if I would trust my sense, I should believe it as very a body upon the paper as in the candle, though interceded by the *laxity* of the channel in which it flows. *Digby on Bodies.*  
**LAXNESS.** *n. f.* *Laxity*; not tension; not precision; not costiveness.  
For the free passage of the sound into the ear, it is requisite that the tympanum be tense, and hard stretched; otherwise the *laxness* of that membrane will certainly dead and damp the sound. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*  
**LAY.** *Preterite of lie.*  
O! would the quarrel *lay* upon our heads,  
And that no man might draw short breath to day,  
But I and Harry Monmouth. *Shakesp. Henry IV.*  
He was familiarly acquainted with him at such time as he lay ambassador at Constantinople. *Knoles's Hist. of the Turks.*

# LAY

When Ahab had heard those words he fasted, and *lay* in sackcloth. *1 Kings, xxi. 27.*  
I try'd whatever in the Godhead *lay*. *Dryden.*  
He rode to rout the prey;  
That shaded by the fern in harbour *lay*. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*  
And thence dislodged.  
Leaving Rome, in my way to Sienna, I *lay* the first night at a village in the territories of the antient Veii. *Addison.*  
How could he have the retiredness of the cloister, to perform all those acts of devotion in, when the burthen of the reformation *lay* upon his shoulders? *Francis Atterbury.*  
The presbyterians argued, that if the pretender should invade those parts where the numbers and estates of the dissenters chiefly *lay*, they would fit still. *Swift.*  
**TO LAY.** *v. a.* [*lēcgan*, Saxon; *leggen*, Dutch.]  
1. To place along.  
Seek not to be judge, being not able to take away iniquity, left at any time thou fear the person of the mighty; and *lay* a stumbling-block in the way of thy uprightness. *Ecclef.*  
2. To beat down corn or grass.  
Another ill accident is *laying* of corn with great rains in harvest. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Let no sheep there play,  
Nor frisking kids the flowery meadows *lay*. *May's Virgil.*  
3. To keep from rising; to settle; to still.  
I'll use th' advantage of my power,  
And *lay* the summer's dust with showers of blood. *Shakesp.*  
It was a sandy soil, and the way had been full of dust; but an hour or two before a refreshing fragrant shower of rain had *laid* the dust. *Ray on Creation.*  
4. To fix deep.  
Schismatics, outlaws, or criminal persons, are not fit to *lay* the foundation of a new colony. *Bacon's Adv. to Villiers.*  
I *lay* the deep foundations of a wall. *Dryden.*  
And Enos, nam'd from me, the city call.  
Men will be apt to call it pulling up the old foundations of knowledge; I persuade myself, that the way I have pursued *lays* those foundations surer. *Locke.*  
5. To put; to place.  
Then he offered it to him again; then he put it by again; but, to my thinking, he was very loth to *lay* his fingers on it. *Shakesp. Julius Caesar.*  
They shall *lay* hands on the sick, and recover. *Mark.*  
They, who so state a question, do no more but separate and disentangle the parts of it, one from another, and *lay* them, when so disentangled, in their due order. *Locke.*  
We to thy name our annual rites will pay,  
And on thy altars sacrifices *lay*. *Pope's Statius.*  
6. To bury; to inter.  
David fell on sleep, and was *laid* unto his fathers, and saw corruption. *Acts xiii. 36.*  
7. To station or place privily.  
*Lay* thee an ambush for the city behind thee. *Jes. viii. 2.*  
The wicked have *laid* a snare for me. *Psal.*  
*Lay* not wait, O! wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous. *Prov. xxiv. 15.*  
8. To spread on a surface.  
The colouring upon those maps should be *laid* on so thin, as not to obscure or conceal any part of the lines. *Watts.*  
9. To paint; to enamel.  
The pictures drawn in our minds are *laid* in fading colours; and, if not sometimes refreshed, vanish and disappear. *Locke.*  
10. To put into any state of quiet.  
They bragged, that they doubted not but to abuse, and *lay* asleep, the queen and council of England. *Bacon.*  
11. To calm; to still; to quiet; to allay.  
Friends, loud tumults are not *laid*  
With half the easiness that they are rais'd. *B. Johnson.*  
Thus pass'd the night so foul, till morning fair  
Came forth with pilgrim steps in amice grey,  
Who with her radiant finger still'd the roar  
Of thunder, chas'd the clouds and *laid* the winds. *Milton.*  
After a tempest, when the winds are *laid*,  
The calm sea wonders at the wrecks it made. *Waller.*  
I fear'd I should have found  
A tempest in your soul, and came to *lay* it. *Denham.*  
Was dumb, a rising earthquake rock'd the ground. *Dryd.*  
12. To prohibit a spirit to walk.  
The husband found no charm to *lay* the devil in a petticoat, but the rattling of a bladder with beans in it. *L'Estr.*  
13. To set on the table.  
I *laid* meat unto them. *Hos. xi. 4.*  
14. To propagate plants by fixing their twigs in the ground.  
The chief time of *laying* gillyflowers is in July, when the flowers are gone. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
15. To wager.  
But since you will be mad, and since you may  
Suspect my courage, if I should not *lay*;  
The pawn I proffer shall be full as good. *Dryden's Virg.*  
15 E. 16. To